

Palughi, who passed away suddenly and unexpectedly last Saturday, February 22, 2003. Judge Palughi, who served with distinction on the Mobile County District Court, was a pillar of the Mobile community and a man whose character and generosity towards others will be remembered by all who were fortunate enough to know him.

Judge Palughi was deeply religious and attended mass daily, often at St. Mary's Catholic Church. His reverence for his country was strong as he opened his courtroom every morning with the Pledge of Allegiance. His dedication to his community and fellow man throughout his law practice, which he maintained for 40 years, and as Mobile County District Court Judge since his election in 1998, prompted the attendance of more than 600 family, friends, fellow judges and colleagues at the service honoring his life. Judge Palughi will be honored and remembered not only for his service to his community but for his unwillingness and inability to turn down an indigent prospective client during his many years practicing law. He represented the poor and downtrodden when others would not. The Reverend Paul Zoghby recognized Judge Palughi's kindness and humility and stated, at the service, that "If he's not there (in Heaven), I don't think the rest of us have a chance." His charitable nature will be missed amongst the legal community and the City of Mobile.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to pay tribute to the life of Delano Palughi. Judge Palughi's love for his wife of 33 years, Frances; his two sons, Vincent and Anthony; his brother, Peter; two grandchildren, family, friends and his church was the foundation of his compassionate and charitable manner towards clients and those who appeared before him as District Court Judge. I would like to extend my prayers and deepest sympathies to his family and friends.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.J.
RES. 2, CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2003

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2003

Mr. BASS. I have come to the floor today to compliment the Committee on an excellent job balancing all the very important programs in the Omnibus Appropriations bill and particularly the Chapter of the bill that includes the matters that relate to the jurisdiction of the VA/ HUD Subcommittee. I know the spending limitations necessarily imposed on the Subcommittee do not permit the Chairman and other members to address each and every issue as fully as they would like, but nonetheless the chairman has achieved a balanced and good result. I want to extend this praise to Chairman WALSH and the other members of the subcommittee.

Earlier this year, a number of Members contacted the Subcommittee to express the view that the Veterans Health Administration be as proactive as possible to help ensure that disabled veterans have the most advanced prosthetic and sensory aids devices made available to them, as would be medically appropriate. I want to strongly associate myself with those views and in that regard, I was pleased

to see that the committee approved the Administration's fiscal year 2003 budget request for \$739.1 million for prosthetic and sensory aids devices providing an increase of \$60.3 million over last year's level. I am also most appreciative of the report language the committee included on this subject.

One of the exciting new prosthetic and sensory aids devices known as the IBOT was invented in my home State of New Hampshire. It is a mobility device that climbs stairs, traverses all-terrain, and balances the seated user at standing eye-level. It would be my view that some portion—at least 1 percent—of the approximately 25,000 veterans with service-connected spinal cord injuries should have access to this advanced mobility device. In fact, at the request of Congress, the VHA conducted a study of this mobility device last year that concluded with the finding that "the subjects were unanimous in their recommendation that the Veterans Health Administration should provide IBOTS to veterans" and that "the IBOT could improve integration and work performance." Additionally as Secretary Principi has established a priority of "restoring the capability of disabled veterans to the extent possible" it is my expectation that such devices will be actively considered and provided to disabled veterans as medically appropriate.

It is my view and the view of Members who I have discussed this matter with the Department should aggressively pursue making this mobility device and other state of the art assistive technologies available to veterans with disabilities as medically appropriate. I should state further that it is my intention to work with the Department and with Chairman WALSH over the next year to ensure that the Department does pursue this matter appropriately.

RECOGNIZING JENNIFER
BLACKWELL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jennifer Blackwell, a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, Troop 511, and in earning the most prestigious honor of the Gold Award.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest achievement attainable in Girl Scouting. To earn the Gold Award, a Scout must complete five requirements, all of which promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values, and leadership skills. The requirements include, one, earning four interest project patches, each of which requires seven activities that center on skill building, technology, service projects, and career exploration; two, earning the career exploration pin, which involves researching careers, writing resumes, and planning a career fair or trip; three, earning the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, which requires a minimum of 30 hours of work using leadership skills; fourth, designing a self-development plan that requires assessment of ability to interact with others and prioritize values, participation for a minimum of 15 hours in a community service project, and development of a plan to promote

Girl Scouting, and five, spending a minimum of 50 hours planning and implementing a Girl Scout Gold Award project that has a positive lasting impact on the community.

For her Gold Award project, Jennifer collected school supplies for the Community Service League.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jennifer Blackwell for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOROUGH OF MOUNT PENN

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2003

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Borough of Mount Penn, Pennsylvania during its 100th anniversary celebration. Mount Penn, known as the "Friendly Borough," truly lives up to its moniker.

The area lying at the foot of Mount Penn was settled in 1748; it was originally named Dengler's, after one of its most prominent citizens. With busy Philadelphia Pike running through town, Dengler's quickly became a popular suburb of nearby Reading. Some of the first businesses were carriage and wagon works to help speed travelers along the 55-mile trip between Reading and Philadelphia.

In 1902, residents of the village petitioned the courts to create their own borough. On January 7, 1903, the petition was granted and the 500-citizen Mount Penn Borough was born. As time went on, trolley lines and paved roads running to all points around Mount Penn brought more visitors and settlers to the borough.

Today, Mount Penn has grown to around 242 acres and 3,000 residents—many of whom are third- and fourth-generation "Mountaineers." The Borough contains a thriving business district, including Leinbach's Hardware, which at 82 years old is the longest continually operated business in the borough.

Although the Borough has kept up with the times, it still retains the small-town feel that made it so appealing to travelers many years ago. In a day and age when many people do not even know their neighbors, Mount Penn is a shining example of what a community can be. I congratulate Mount Penn Borough on its one hundredth anniversary and call upon my colleagues to do the same.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES E. STEWART

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2003

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. James E. Stewart of Foley, Alabama, on the occasion of his being honored by his friends, family and colleagues on "James E. Stewart Day" in Baldwin County, Alabama.

For the past fifty years, Jim Stewart has been the anchor of the Baldwin County radio